

The Capital Budget Committee held a meeting at 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 over Zoom.

The following members were present:

Edward J. Forsberg (Chair)	Justin Haner
Cheryl Caron	Leah McGuill
Noreen Gordon	

The following members were absent:

Josette Burke (Secretary)	Scott Wassel
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Also in attendance were Assistant Town Administrator Patrick Shield, Fire Chief Timothy F. Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief Paul C. Barry, and Interim Chief of Police Richard M. Kelleher.

The meeting was called to order by Edward J. Forsberg at 6:03PM

The Capital Budget Committee heard funding requests from the following departments:

Fire Department Requests

The Fire Department was awarded an AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) for \$545,000 which will offset a portion of the cost of the department's requests

2009 Class A Fire Engine (2): Fire Chief Bailey requested **\$1,320,000** to replace two of the Fire Department's Fire Engines. These vehicles have a lot of miles on them (~74,000 & 84,000) and have undergone many major repairs over the years. Call volume has risen in recent years, and the department needs newer, more reliable engines for quick, safe transportation.

UPS Batteries Main Station Backup: A request for **\$9,060** to replace the fire department's backup battery system. The current system, which provides emergency energy for all the department's electronic equipment, is presently on year three of a recommended five-year lifespan, so time is an important factor for this request.

Thermal Imaging Cameras: A request for **\$25,000** to purchase six thermal imaging cameras, a critical tool which detects heat and is used to locate fire or victims. Most of the department's cameras are upwards of twenty years old, and technology has increased substantially since then.

Turnout Gear & Equipment: A request for **\$121,484** to purchase twenty sets of the outfits and gear worn by the fire department's personnel. These would include full sets for five new employees and backup/replacement gear for a handful of current staff.

Portable Radios: A request for \$57,464 to purchase thirteen portable radios for the department. Communication is essential in emergency scenarios, and a handful of personnel have damaged radios or none at all.

F-150 Pick-Up Replacement: A request for \$50,000 to replace the department's 1991 F-150 pickup truck. The current one serves a multitude of transportation purposes, but it is now too old and should not be on the road.

Police Department Requests

Marked Police Cruiser: Police Chief Kelleher requested \$62,685 to purchase a marked police cruiser for the department. They currently have ten marked and ten unmarked cruisers for patrol. The department is looking to increase its personnel over the next few years, and they will need more cruisers to do so. The new car would be a hybrid and consume less fuel than any of the current cruisers.

5 Portable AEDs: A request for \$8,000 to purchase five portable Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are used to help resuscitate people experiencing cardiac arrest. They are being replaced in phases over a five-year timespan, and all should be replaced by 2024.

Police Mountain Bikes: A request for \$10,600 to purchase six hybrid mountain bikes to be utilized by police officers to patrol areas that aren't accessible by police cruiser and attend various special events like parades. The current set of mountain bikes are ten years old, and higher-quality ones would be beneficial to the officers who ride them.

After hearing these requests, the Capital Budget Committee adjourned at 7:45pm.